

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant respectfully acknowledges receipt of the Office Action mailed October 26, 2006. In that Office Action, the Examiner (i) rejected claims 1-7, 10-11 and 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,096,975 Anderson et al.; (ii) rejected claims 8, 9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Anderson et al. in view of US 3,833,457 Misumi et al. and US 3,677,979 Beaulieu; and (iii) rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over US 20020161088A1 Kochvar et al. in view of Misumi et al. and Anderson et al. and Joseph et al. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1 to 15 and 19, and cancelled claims 16 to 18, and requests that the amended claims be allowed in view of the following submissions.

Applicant has amended claim 1, which was previously a product-by-process claim, to direct it to the method of making the water-soluble film having a selected water-solubility rate. The features of amended claim 1 are supported in the specification, for example in paragraph 33, the Examples and Table 1. Claim 19 has been amended in an analogous manner to a method claim and recites the same steps as claim 1.

Claims 2 to 15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and have been amended to be consistent with the amendment of claim 1.

None of the cited references discloses a method of making water-soluble films, or controlling the water-solubility rate of a water-soluble film, in accordance with the limitations set out in claim 1 or 19. In particular, none of the references discloses the steps of selecting a desired water-solubility rate for the film and determining a weight percent of the sulfonate polymer in the blend that will, in the film, result in the selected water-solubility rate. The references are silent with respect to both the water-solubility rate of the film and any method of achieving a particular water-solubility rate by controlling the weight percent of sulfonate polymer in the blend.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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